GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Delay of Trains due to Foggy Weather
Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints with respect to delay in movement of trains have not been addressed despite the claims made by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of trains delayed and the number of days on which they were delayed at the starting point or the destination point during the last three months along with the reasons therefor, train-wise;

(c) whether the Government has not been able to rectify the signalling system of the Railways and make arrangements for smooth movement of trains in fog;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the stand of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the signalling system during foggy season to ensure timely departure of train from its originating place and timely arrival at its destination?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 BY SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE AND DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.03.2017 REGARDING DELAY OF TRAINS DUE TO FOGGY WEATHER.

(a) & (b): During the last 3 months, i.e Dec'2016 to Feb'2017, the number of trains delayed over 15 minutes over Indian Railways was about 518 trains/day as compared to 368 per day in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of these, approximately 265 trains/day were delayed by more than 15 minutes due to fog and rescheduling amounting to i.e 51 % of the total trains delayed.
To minimize the hardship being faced by passengers and to keep the public informed about the delays, special efforts were made through public interface points such as stations, NTES, via print & electronic media to purvey the correct information of train delays hour by hour so that the public is well apprised.

The main reason for the slow movement of trains during fog is the inability of the driver to see the track and signals ahead from a safe distance due to reduced visibility. Incidentally, speeds of trains during fog are kept restricted up to 60 kmph in Absolute Block System and 30 kmph in Automatic Signaling Territory.

As per railway working, location of an approaching signal can be indicated to the driver by use of fog signal (detonators) placed on the track at sufficient distance in advance of the signal. During dense fog, detonators are placed on the track short of the first stop signal of the station in Absolute Block System of working in which there is one train in each Block Section. However, in the Automatic Signaling territory each automatic signal pre-warns the aspect of the signal ahead.
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As block stations in the Automatic Signaling territory have four or five (or even more) Automatic Signals ,there can be many trains between two Block Stations and detonators are not placed short of signals and speed of the trains is suitably regulated for safe working through different aspects of signals.

(c) to (e) Functioning of signaling system is reliable and fail safe in all conditions. For Smooth & Safe movement of trains in fog the following action has been taken:-

(i) Smooth and Safe running in fog is ensured by modifying the automatic signaling to increase separation distance between trains.

(ii) The specifications of TCAS under field trials, incorporate cab signaling to provide adequate visibility to loco pilots.

(iii) Fog safe devices with audio indication about location of signal are being provided in locos in phased manner.

(iv) 'Trinetra' technology for improved visibility during foggy weather conditions is also under development.
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